

MASTER GARDENER UPDATE. . . Friday, March 13, 2009
Announcements and news for ISU Extension Master Gardeners, staff, and faculty

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PLANTS FOR PARKERSBURG!

Shirley Daleske (2008 Master Gardener Intern) and her daughters are helping people in Parkersburg devastated by last spring's tornado with landscape design and planting flowers, shrubs and trees. The plantings will be done over weekends in May and June. If you have plants such as lilies and hostas you wish to donate and/or shrubs and trees and/or can volunteer time to the project, please contact Shirley by phone 641-858-2015 or email smdaleske@mchsi.com This is a super volunteer opportunity to help people in need.

DUBUQUE COUNTY ISU EXTENSION MASTER GARDENING CENTER

An indoor learning garden with houseplants, ficus tree, and waterfall are part of Dubuque County ISU Extensions new Master Gardening Center in the Dubuque County ISU Extension office. In addition to the house plants, publication racks exhibit a variety of publications for reading and posters for identifying birds, butterflies and other insects. The indoor garden is cared for by Master Gardener interns Trish Driscoll and Dee Gaul. Its been a WOW experience as people walk in the doors to see the indoor garden and our new Master Gardening Center is more efficient in helping people find information. Visitors are always welcome Monday-Thursday, 9AM 4PM. This spring and summer, an outdoor flower garden and landscaping project is in the plans.

SPRING EQUINOX AT THE BICKELHAUPT ARBORETUM

The spring equinox celebration is free with each guest given a branch

for forcing. The banner Earth Awakens will herald the first day of spring. The theme of this year's Vernal Equinox will be spring is Abundant. At this time of economic challenge in our country, the Reflection Committee of the Arboretum feels that we need to recognize the abundance of the earth during the celebration.

This celebration is appropriate to all ages. Dress for spending a half hour outside. An electric cart will be provided for those who need assistance. If the weather is severe, the observance will be held inside.

When: 5:30PM, Friday, March 20 on the grounds of the outdoor museum.
Meet at the Gathering Place, just west of the parking lot.

Where: Bickelhaupt Arboretum located at 347 S.14 ST. Clinton, IA

For more information, contact:

Francie Hill by phone 563-242-4771 or email bickarb@clinton.net.

POLK COUNTY GET A JUMP ON SPRING WORKSHOPS

Shake off the winter blues and join other homeowners for an enjoyable and educational series of classes focusing on developing your yard/garden into the showplace of your dreams.

Classes will be taught by Master Gardeners and include vegetables, vertical gardening, water features-big and small, composts and composting. In the morning, Kathleen Delate, Associate Professor and Organic Specialist, will discuss the benefits of organic gardening and pest management and in the afternoon, Elvin McDonald, Director of Friends of the Des Moines Botanical Center, will share his all-time favorite topic houseplants indoors/outdoors. Both in the morning and afternoon, Lydia Brawner and Julie Catlin, Wright Outdoor Solutions, will discuss the principles to make gardens look professionally designed and top trends for landscaping in 2009; and Holly and Joel Gettys, Rain Barrels Iowa, will discuss the benefits of collecting rain water for use in the yard/garden. If you like to be more creative, sign up for our build a garden art project. Most classes will be offered both in the morning and afternoon.

When: Saturday, March 28, from 8:00AM 5:00PM

Where: The Polk County Extension office, located at 1625 Adventureland Dr., Ste A, Altoona, IA 50009.

Cost: Most classes are \$15.00 each. Call or email Virginia for class prices

For more information, contact:

Virginia Hunnell, Coordinator of Polk County Horticultural Education, at 515-957-5762 or email vhunnell@iastate.edu.

A registration form can be obtained at the Polk County Extension office or on the web site at

www.extension.iastate.edu/polk.info/mastergardener/mg.htm and click on Master Gardeners.

SUBMITTING YOUR NEWS

Master Gardener Update is published Friday by the Iowa Master Gardener Coordinator. Please send your news via email to James Romer (jromer@iastate.edu). Press releases received by Wednesday will be included in the next Update.

When submitting information for the MG Update, be sure to include who, what, when, where, why, cost (if applicable), a brief paragraph discussing the event and a contact for more information. Please review all information before submitting. For questions, call (515) 294-2336.

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